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# Forest Service NEWS

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## REGIONAL FORESTER CLARIFIES NUMBERS

PORLAND, September 7--Pacific Northwest Regional Forester John Butruille (Beeu-TREL) issued a statement today to help clarify the capability of the Forest Service to meet timber targets called for in the Hatfield/Adams amendment to the senate appropriations bill.

"The Senate provision offers a short-term resolution for the timber crisis in the Pacific Northwest, and I'm sorry about the confusion over our reaction to it," stated Butruille. "The quickly changing judicial climate and the currently evolving spotted owl listing process together have challenged us internally as well as externally to keep abreast of what our capabilities are. Because of this confusion, I'd like to restate the Forest Service position."

"The Pacific Northwest Region can sell the 8 billion board feet called for in this amendment if there are no barriers to our sale program. Possible barriers include prolonged adverse weather, a severe fire season, appeals and litigation. We expect to sell 2.1 BBF in fiscal year '89. With no barriers we could sell the remaining 5.9 BBF in fiscal year '90 while meeting the requirements of the National Forest Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, our own standards and guidelines for environmental stewardship, and the Chief's decision on the spotted owl."

Butruille added that the logistics of meeting the target would be difficult, since almost a 2 year program would be collapsed into 1 year. Nearly 4.9 BBF would have to come from the 13 owl forests, whose peak program in the past was only 3.8 BBF. "We will do everything we can to meet the volume called for in the amendment." He added that the 2 year into 1 nature of the amendment is what makes it seem to be above our long range plans. The plans themselves represent averages over time that can be adjusted upward or downward to meet short term needs.

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